

## Message Text

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70

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSC-01 CPR-01

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /042 W

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R 151326Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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STOCKHOLM 2713

USMISSION NATO

USDOCO AFNORTH

CINCEUR

USNMRSHAPE

CINCLANT

SECDEF

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MILI, NO

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC: NORWAY'S NEW CABINET AND BIOGRAPHIC REPORT  
ON DEFENSE MINISTER ROLF HANSEN

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REF: OSLO 0198 OSLO 0231

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1. FIRST REFTEL DESCRIBES BRATTELI GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION AND NEW PRIME MINISTER NORDLI'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS CABINET JAN 12. THIS CABLE PROVIDES A CABINET LIST AND A BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON NEW DEFENSE MINISTER KROF HANSEN,. BIO ON OTHER NEW MINISTERS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

2. THE MEMBERS OF NORWAY'S NEW CABINET ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRIME MINISTER: ODVAR NORDLI  
FOREIGN MINISTER: KNUT FRYDENLUND  
DEFENSE MINISTER: ROLF HANSEN  
FINANCE MINISTER: PER KLEPPE  
LAW OF THE SEA MINISTER (WITHOUT DEPARTMENT): JENS EVENSEN  
INDUSTRY MINISTER: BJARTMAR GJERDE  
COMMERCE AND SHIPPING MINISTER: HALLVARD BAKKE  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER: RUTH TYSTE  
CHURCH AND EDUCATION MINISTER: KJOLV EGELAND  
JUSTICE MINISTER: INGER LOUISE VALLE  
MUNICIPAL AND LABOR MINISTER: LEIF AUNE  
CONSUMER AND ADMINISTRATION MINISTER ANNEMARIE LORENTZEN  
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER: RAGNAR CHRISTIANSEN  
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER: GRO HARLEM BRUDTLAND  
AGRICULTURAL MINISTER: ISKAR OKSNES  
FISHERY MINISTER: EIVIND BOLLE  
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3. NEWLY NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN IS EXPECTED TO BE A STRONG PERSONALITY IN THE CABINET. AN ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL POLITICIAN SINCE BEFORE WORLD WAR AND LIKED AND RESPECTED IN THE MODERATE OR "TRADITIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" WING OF THE LABOR PARTY, HANSEN IS A STRONG NATO SUPPORTER, AND NOTED FOR BEING OUTSPOKEN  
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AND DECISIVE. HIS APPOINTMENT WAS WELCOMED BY CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE OFTEN CRITICAL OF THE LABOR PARTY AS WEAK ON SECURITY POLICY. KNOWN PRINCIPALLY FOR REBUILDING LABOR YOUTH AFTER THE WAR AND FOR HIS STRONG HAND IN OSLO MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL POLITICS MORE RECENTLY, HANSEN WAS ALSO ACTIVE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS IN ESTABLISHING THE ARMED FORCES' GRIEVANCE SYSTEM AND MAKING IT WORK, AND PARTICIPATED IN FORMULAT-

ING LABOR PARTY DEFENSE POLICY. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE USED HIS FIRST PUBLIC REMARKS AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT TO STRESS WESTERN ALLIED DEFENSE COOPERATION AND HIS OWN FAMILIARITY WITH AND EXPERIENCE IN DEFENSE MATTERS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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4. DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN WAS BORN IN OSLO JULY 23, 1920. HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE LABOR PARTY CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION (FRAMFYLKINGEN) AND YOUTH ORGANIZATION (AUF) BEFORE WORLD WAR II. DURING THE WAR HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF AUF'S UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE AND LATER A REFUGEE IN SWEDEN, HE WAS A KEY FIGURE IN REBUILDING AUF AND FRAMFYLKINGEN AFTER THE WAR. HE WAS NATIONAL SECRETARY OF FRAMFYLKINGEN DURING 1945-52 AND AN AUF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER IN 1945-55, INCLUDING THREE YEARS AS THE ORGANIZATION'S ELECTED SECRETARY. HE SPENT AUGUST 1955-JANUARY 1956 IN THE US ON A FULL-BRIGHT GRANT SPECIALIZING IN THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES UNDER THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY.

5. HANSEN WAS POLITICAL SECRETARY TO SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER FUNDMUND HARLEM (FATHER TO PRESENT ENVIRONMENT MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND), DURING 1956-59. HE WAS NAMED ORGANIZATION SECRETARY OF THE OSLO LABOR PARTY, 1959-67 AND BECAME ITS ELECTED POLITICAL (OR GENER) SECRETARY, 1967-71; A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 1969-73; AND OSLO LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN, 1972-74. UNTIL NAMED MINISTER, HE WAS MANAGER OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT'S PEOPLE'S THEATER BUILDING, WHICH HOUSES THE LABOR PARTY, ITS OSLO NEWSPAPER "ARBEIDERBLADET", THE NATIONAL OPERA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (A USEFUL, WELL-PAID SINECURE FOR ACTIVE LABOR POLITICANS). HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE OSLO SCHOOL AND TAX BOARDS AND MANY OTHER COMMITTEES. H IS A WIDOWER, WITH A SON OF 17. HIS ENGLISH IS GOOD.

6. IN THE DEFENSE FIELD, HANSEN WAS AN OMBUDSMAN FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR 14 YEARS AND A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE WHICH FORMULATED LABOR POLICY IN REGARD TO NORWAY'S CURRENT FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PLAN. IN HIS FIRST INTERVIEW AFTER BEING NAMED MINISTER, HANSEN SAID: "I SEE NO DEFENSE POLICY ALTERNATIVE AT THIS TIME OTHER THAN ALLIED WESTERN DEFENSE COOPERATION" HE ADDED: "I WAS FOR FOURTEEN YEARS A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT'S OMBUDSMAN'S COUNCIL AND CAME

TO KNOW THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT WELL THEM. I THEREFORE  
FEEL PARTLY ON MY HOME COURT."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976OSLO00252  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760016-0359  
**From:** OSLO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabvsn.tel  
**Line Count:** 173  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 OSLO 198, 76 OSLO 231  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <23 APR 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BIOGRAPHIC: NORWAY'S NEW CABINET AND BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON DEFENSE MINISTER ROLF HANSEN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, NO, (HANSEN, ROLF)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006